

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00
EB-07 EA-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NEA-10 NSAE-00 USIA-06
OPIC-03 SP-02 TRSE-00 LAB-04 EPG-02 SIL-01 OMB-01
/085 W

-----041041Z 124020 /15

R 041030Z MAY 77
FM USMISSION OECD PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASH DC 6437
INFO USDA/WASHDC
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PASS: USDA FOR WITCHER AND G. H. WHITE, FAS;
WILLETT AND E.L. REINSEL, ERS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR OECD
SUBJECT: WP NO. 1 (AGR POLICIES) OF COMM FOR AGR,
47TH SESSION, APR 25-27, 1977

1. SUMMARY. POPP RE-ELECTED CHMN., LEGER, V.CHMN.;
HIRSCH ELECTED V. CHMN. GERMAN PROPOSAL ON INTERNA-
TIONAL AGRICULTURAL POLICY, IN CONTRAST TO ITS STILL
HAZY REFORMULATION IN AGR/WP1(77)5, WAS ORALLY PRE-
SENTED AS INVENTORY OF INTERNATIONAL AGENCY PROGRAMS
AND POLICIES SUCH AS FAO, GATT, UNCTAD, IFAD ET AL;
TO BE REFORMULATED JOINTLY BY GERMANS AND EC COMMISSION
FOR CIRCULATION. THEN OTHER DEL'S INVITED TO SEND IN
WRITTEN COMMENTS. CHAPTER ON PART-TIME FARMING (PTF)
IN AUSTRIA, NOTES ON PTF IN 6 OTHER COUNTRIES AND DRAFT
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GENERAL CHAPTER ON PTF DISCUSSED; "POLICY ISSUES" TO
BE FORMULATED. EXPERT MEETING ON PERI-URBAN AGRICULTURE
PROJECT ENVISAGED FOR FALL. NEXT MEETING FIRST WEEK
OF JULY WITH PART-TIME FARMING AND INTERNATIONAL AGR
POLICY ON AGENDA. END SUMMARY.

2. AGENDA ADOPTED, AGR/WP1/A(77)1(1ST REV.), APR. 6,

1977. H. POPP (SWITZERLAND) RE-ELECTED CHMN., J. LEGER (FRANCE) V.CHMN. H.G.HIRSCH (US) ELECTED V.CHMN. (COMMENT: BELGIAN DEL DETRAUX MADE NOMINATION WITH HIGH PRAISE FOR HIRSCH EVIDENTLY TO MAKE UP FOR HIS STRONG OBJECTION TO STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL TRADE ASPECTS OF BEEF CHAIN STUDY IN WP NO. 4 THE PRECEDING WORKDAY; SEE OECD PARIS 12779, PARA. 5). (SESSION CHAIRED BY POPP FIRST DAY, HIRSCH, SECOND DAY, LEGER, THIRD DAY.) PRESENT: 20 COUNTRIES AND EC, ABSENT: CANADA, ICELAND, ITALY, LUXEMBOURG, YUGOSLAVIA. SUMMARY RECORD OF 46TH SESS. APPROVED (AGR/WP1(76)16). CANADA, ICELAND, ITALY, LUXEMBOURG, YUGOSLAVIA, OF 4

3. INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL POLICY (GERMAN PROPOSAL) AGR/WP1(77)5, APR. 1, 1977, WAS INTENDED AS A CONCRETIZATION OF DAA/1387 DISTRIBUTED BY GERMAN DEL DURING COMM FOR AGR MEETING, JUNE 1976. NEW FORMULATION REMAINS NEBULOUS AND AMORPHOUS. REPEATEDLY DURING PAST 10 MONTHS, SECRETARIAT AND GERMAN DEL UNOFFICIALLY TOLD AGATT THAT EC WAS TRYING TO PERSUADE GERMANS TO WITHDRAW PROPOSAL. FINALLY, COMPROMISE WAS REACHED BETWEEN GERMANS AND OTHER EC COUNTRIES, THAT PROPOSAL WOULD BE CONCEIVED OF AS AN INVENTORY-TAKING OF INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL POLICY AS RECOGNIZABLE IN THE WORK OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS (FAO, GATT, UNCTAD, IFAD ETAL). GERMAN DEL (ILLING) PRESENTED PROPOSAL ACCORDINGLY INTERPRETING AND DEVELOPING RATHER THAN SUMMARIZING AGR/WP1(77)5. CHAIR (POPP) WARNED AGAINST MERE INVENTORY-TAKING BUT EC (MARINUCCI) LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FAVORED IT. SECRETARIAT (RAIDL) MENTIONED ITS UNDERSTANDING THAT PROPOSAL MAY AIM AT ADDRESSING ITSELF AT

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OPIC-03 SP-02 TRSE-00 LAB-04 EPG-02 SIL-01 OMB-01
/085 W

-----041042Z 124078 /15

R 041030Z MAY 77
FM USMISSION OECD PARIS
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DC-LDC POLICY RELATIONSHIP. AFTER SEVERAL DEL'S HAD
MADE COMMENTS RANGING FROM QUIZZICAL TO NEGATIVE, US
DEL (HIRSCH) ASKED WHETHER PROPOSAL COULD BE ANCHORED
UPON PAST AND CURRENT WORK. COULD ISSUES BE ANALYZED
SUCH AS THE FAO INDICATIVE PLAN CONTENTION THAT DC'S
SHOULD FOREGO SOME AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION TO GIVE
LDC'S AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPORT OR, RELATED TO THAT
ISSUE, COULD WE SEEK TO ANALYZE QUESTIONS LEFT UN-
ANSWERED BY THE OECD STUDY OF TRENDS IN THE SUPPLY AND
DEMAND OF MAJOR AGR COMMODITIES WITH RESPECT TO COM-
PARATIVE ADVANTAGE IN MARGINAL COST OF AGRICULTURAL
PRODUCTION? COULD THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL ASPECTS
OF THE CURRENT OECD PART 2 OF THE BUDGET, JAPANESE-
SPONSORED "INTERFUTURES" STUDY BE DEVELOPED? AUSTRALIA
AND NEW ZEALAND ENDORSED GERMAN PROPOSAL. PRESSED
HARD, ILLING FINALLY SAID HE WANTED TO LOOK AT WHAT
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INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ARE DOING, NOT TO PASS
JUDGMENT BUT TO FIND OUT WHETHER A COMMON OBJECTIVE IS
DETECTABLE; HE DOES NOT WANT A CONFRONTATION OF
NATIONAL WITH INTERNATIONAL POLICIES, BUT CONSEQUEN-
CES OF POLICIES PURSUED SHOULD BE SPELLED OUT.
SECRETARIAT INVITED WRITTEN VIEWS OF DELEGATIONS
(EITHER TO SECRETARIAT ONLY OR FOR CIRCULATION AMONG
DEL'S), ALSO ADVANCED PROPOSAL TO CONVENE A GROUP OF
EXPERTS. US DEL OBSERVED THAT SEVERAL GROUPS OF
EXPERTS ARE SCHEDULED TO BE CONVENED IN COMING MONTHS.
HE SENSED A CURRENT SATURATION IN THIS RESPECT AND
WARNED THE SECRETARIAT NOT TO SUGGEST ANOTHER AT THIS
TIME. CHAIR SUMMARIZED BY INVITING GERMAN AND EC
COMMISSION DEL'S JOINTLY TO REFORMULATE THE ESSENCE OF

THE PROPOSAL WITHIN 3-4 WEEKS. DOCU-
MENT TO BE CIRCULATED WITH INVITATION TO ALL DEL'S
TO SUBMIT WRITTEN VIEWS EARLY JUNE. THEN
PROPOSAL WOULD AGAIN BE DISCUSSED AT JULY MEETING.

4. A. PART-TIME FARMING IN AUSTRIA AND 6 OTHER
COUNTRIES (CANADA, FINLAND, IRELAND, NETHERLANDS,
NEW ZEALAND, SWITZERLAND) DISCUSSED (AGR/WP1(77)1/02
WITH ADDENDUM AND AGR/WP1(77)2. (PUBLIC RELEASE,
COINCIDENTALLY THAT DAY, OF "PART-TIME FARMING IN
GERMANY, JAPAN, NORWAY AND US" ANNOUNCED. COUNTRY
NOTES ON BELGIUM, FRANCE AND ITALY TO BE DISCUSSED
IN JULY AND TO COMPLETE PROJECT.)

B. AUSTRIAN DEL (KOBASA AND MANNERT) INTRODUCED
PART-TIME FARMING (PTF) AS CENTURY-OLD PHENOMENON
WHICH, HOWEVER, RECEIVED AG CENSUS RECOGNITION ONLY
IN 1951. CHANGING DEFINITION IN 3 DECENNIAL CENSUSES,
FROM FARM OPERATOR TO FARM FAMILY LABOR FORCE AND TO
FARMING COUPLE. COMMENT: THIS SHOULD BE OF
METHODOLOGICAL INTEREST TO ERS.) MORE RECENTLY, PTF
BECAME CONCERN OF EXTENSION SERVICE, MOST RECENTLY
SPECIAL LOAN PROGRAM INTRODUCED.
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C. FRENCH CONSIDER PTF AS PHENOMENON CAUSING
PROBLEMS WITH "ORGANIZATION OF MARKETS," DIDN'T WANT
PTF BUT MUST NOW FACE IT AS EXISTING PHENOMENON.
THOUGHT EXPRESSED THAT MORE MILK WOULD BE PRODUCED IN
THE ABSENCE OF PTF. IN SWISS CANTON VALAIS AND IN
AUSTRIAN BURGENLAND HEREDITARY FRAGMENTATION OF LAND
SEEMED CAUSAL IN DEVELOPING PTF; BUT THIS DID NOT HAPPEN
IN QUEBEC, EVIDENTLY FOR LACK OF LOCAL NON-FARMING
OPPORTUNITIES. SWISS ANALYSIS WAS THAT PROCLIVITY
TOWARD PTF MAY DIFFER ETHNICALLY - WITHIN SWITZERLAND
STRONGEST IN GERMAN-SPEAKING CANTONS, INTERMEDIATE IN
FRENCH-SPEAKING CANTONS BUT FLIGHT FROM FARMS IN
ITALIAN-SPEAKING TICINO.

D. CANADIAN NOTE SUFFERED FROM LACK OF TIME
SERIES ANALYSIS. FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS ARE VIEWED AS
SIMILAR TO US DESPITE RESERVATIONS EXPRESSED IN US
INSTRUCTIONS (STATE 91765).

E. NETHERLANDS PUBLIC POLICY ALONE AMONG
COUNTRIES DISCUSSED SEEMS SOMEWHAT DISCRIMINATORY
AGAINST PTF FOR THE SAKE OF EFFICIENCY.

F. PTF IN NEW ZEALAND PORTRAYED AS AID IN
CLIMBING "AGRICULTURAL LADDER", I.E. PTF AS A PHENOMENON

LEADING TOWARD FULL-TIME FARMING RATHER THAN AWAY FROM
IT. CHAIR (HIRSCH) OBSERVED, IF "FUTURE FARMERS OF
AMERICA" LEARNED OF SUCH AN OPPORTUNITY, A FEW HUNDRED
THOUSAND MAY WISH TO COME TO N.Z. NEW ZEALAND DEL

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OPIC-03 SP-02 TRSE-00 LAB-04 EPG-02 SIL-01 OMB-01
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-----041041Z 124107 /12

R 041030Z MAY 77
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(SHEPHERD) COUNTERED NEW ZEALAND'S POTENTIAL WAS
LIMITED.

5. PART-TIME FARMING, DRAFT GENERAL CHAPTER, AGR/WP1
(77)3, DISCUSSED. NETHERLANDS' APPROACH (SEE SUBPARA.
4E ABOVE) WAS SUPPORTED BY UK DEL (HENSHAW): "UK
POLICY IS TO ENCOURAGE EFFICIENCY AND THIS MAY MEAN
FULL-TIME FARMS." PROBLEM OF MARKETING EFFICIENCY OF
PTF DISCUSSED. SECRETARIAT WILL DO MORE WORK ON
ASSERTION THAT PTF USUALLY MARKET THROUGH LOCAL
MERCHANTS OR DIRECTLY TO CONSUMERS RATHER THAN
THROUGH WHOLESALERS AND/OR COOPS. EC (BRUDERER)
ASKED WHETHER PTF CANNOT LIVE WITH A LOWER PRICE THAN
FULL-TIME FARMER BECAUSE HE HAS OUTSIDE INCOME AND
THUS SPELLED OUT PROBLEMS PTF IS SEEN CAUSING WITH

"ORGANIZATION OF MARKETS." EARLY CORREC-
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TIONS AND COMMENTS TO STUDY INVITED BY SECRETARIAT
(RAIDL). THE LAST READING AND DISCUSSION OF STUDY AT
JULY MEETING MAY BE TOO LATE FOR ANOTHER FULL ROUND OF
CHANGES. CONSENSUS OF WP THAT "POLICY ISSUES" MAY BE
FORMULATED BUT NOT "POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS".

6. BRIEF MENTION OF PERI-URBAN AGRICULTURE PROJECT
PROGRESS WITH EXPERT MEETING ENVISAGED IN FALL
(AGR/WP1(77)4).

7. SURPRISINGLY, CHAIR (LEGER) AND SECRETARIAT
NEGLECTED DISCUSSION OF FUTURE WORK UNDER "OTHER
BUSINESS" AS ENVISAGED WHEN AGENDA ADOPTED, BUT SEE
PARA. 3 ABOVE.

8. NEXT MEETING FIRST WEEK JULY ON PART-TIME
FARMING AND INTERNATIONAL POLICY PROJECT.
KATZ

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGRICULTURE, POLICIES, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977OECDP13038
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770156-0311
Format: TEL
From: OECD PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770595/aaaadeje.tel
Line Count: 303
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3c588c9a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2644795
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WP NO. 1 (AGR POLICIES) OF COMM FOR AGR, 47TH SESSION, APR 25-27, 1977
TAGS: EAGR, OECD
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3c588c9a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009